

Helena Trap Club



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

**1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-1267**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Helena Trap Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

- Construct two 10'X12' shelters
- Finish two shelter floors
- Construct concrete slab
- Reside & re-roof two shelters
- Install roll-up door on practice shelter

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The range is on a leased 57 acre parcel of land located on Montana Ave. and I-15 on Montana Ave. approximately 2.5 miles north of Helena, Montana. (See figure 1)

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Modernization and expansion of the existing ranges is necessary for the increased number of shooters and shooting events in the Helena area. There are not adequate shelters from the weather and sun for shooters and equipment.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): To provide shelter and protection from the weather (rain, sun, snow, wind) for "on-deck" shooters, their guns and equipment.

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7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Figure 1 – Helena Club Location

Helena Trap Club



Figure 2 – Helena Trap & Skeet Club

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Site is a 57-acre parcel of land located at 5505 N. Montana Ave. approximately 2.7 miles north of Helena, MT. However, the improvements are limited to a much smaller area within the actual range area.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The range parcel is located on club owned property. Club range has been in existence on this site since 1940. Over the years the surrounding area has grown up into a light rural type residential area. The club properties, shot fall out zones and safety zones are more than adequate for safe operations of the range. Club is located between heavily traveled areas of Montana Avenue and I-15.

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10. Description of Project:

- Construct two 10'X12' shelters on new 18'X12' concrete slabs.
- Construct 1100 square foot concrete slab for contestants and spectators.
- Repair and improve two existing shelters, adding concrete floors, installing roll-up door, residing and reproofing with delta rib tin.

In Accordance With (IAW) contract agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$6,000

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

Approximately 12 organization use the range facilities with a given year, i.e. Capital Sports, Youth Shooting Clinics, Hunter Education, Junior Police Academy, 4-H Club, 4-H archery, Junior Scholastic Clay Target Program for youth, Spring, Women's, Youth, and Fall shooting leagues in addition to four ATA/MSTA registered shooting events. Current usage on the range is approximately 1,100 people per year with an additional 400 every four years when the club hosts the State shoot. Improvements to the range are estimated to increase the range usage by 100-150 people per year.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Wayne Schottler, Field Captain, 365 Pine Hills Dr., Helena, MT 59602, (406) 432-1944

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Helena Trap Club has been in existence since 1935 and moved to its current location in 1940.

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Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 10, 2007

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

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Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) Constructing two new shooter shelters and a concrete slab, and repair and improve two existing shelters.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active trap range without proposed improvements.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (**A**) nor the no action alternative (**B**) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** for adding and improving range shelters.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to add new shooter shelters, a concrete slab and improvements on existing shelters, but to continue with the old dirt floored shelters. Land use would remain the same. Present activities as a trap ranges without the proposed improvements would continue. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

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Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Wayne Schottler, 3365 Pine Hills Dr., Helena, MT 59602

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the reviewed project proposals were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Helena Trap Club. The low impact activities proposed and the improved shooter shelters all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 71 year history of the Helena Trap Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

Ecological Assessments

Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 28, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS: None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Independent Record and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review.

Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.